

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY  
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

200 W. Washington, Suite 301  
Indianapolis, IN 46204  
(317) 233-0696  
<http://www.in.gov/legislative>

**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 7191**

**BILL NUMBER:** HB 1709

**NOTE PREPARED:** Feb 16, 2009

**BILL AMENDED:** Feb 16, 2009

**SUBJECT:** Program to Remove Inmate Tattoos.

**FIRST AUTHOR:** Rep. Turner

**FIRST SPONSOR:**

**BILL STATUS:** CR Adopted - 1<sup>st</sup> House

**FUNDS AFFECTED:** X GENERAL  
DEDICATED  
FEDERAL

**IMPACT:** State

**Summary of Legislation:** (Amended) This bill provides that if an inmate in the Department of Correction (DOC) requests to have a tattoo removed before being released from the DOC, the DOC shall pay expenses related to the tattoo removal and provide the tattoo removal before the inmate's release date.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2009.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:** The number of offenders who might request tattoo removal is not known.

As a way to estimate the range of requests, on October 15, 2008, 8,393 offenders in DOC had earliest possible release dates between July 1, 2009, and June 31, 2011. If half of these offenders have tattoos that they wished to have removed, DOC would be removing 2,098 tattoos each year.

DOC has a laser machine that is used to remove tattoos at the request of offenders after being screened by counselors. However, the bulb needs to be replaced, the cost of which is estimated at \$10,000. The work is performed by a volunteer plastic surgeon.

If DOC were to expand its work with tattoo removal, it would have to buy additional laser machines and perhaps increase the number of physicians who would perform these procedures. Each machine ranges between \$45,000 and \$60,000 in price. Currently, two physicians on staff in DOC have had experience with laser tattoo removal.

**Explanation of State Revenues:**

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:**

**Explanation of Local Revenues:**

**State Agencies Affected:** DOC.

**Local Agencies Affected:**

**Information Sources:** Tim Brown, DOC.

**Fiscal Analyst:** Mark Goodpaster, 317-232-9852.